

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #4**

**Emergency Support Function – No. 4  
FIREFIGHTING**

**Primary Agency:**

Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)  
Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

**Support Agencies and Organizations:**

- Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA)

**Cooperating Agencies**

- Department of Aviation (DOA)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF)
- Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)
- Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC)
- Virginia State Police (VSP)

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**Purpose**

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 – Firefighting enables the detection and suppression of wildland, rural, and urban fires resulting from or occurring coincidentally with an incident.

(3) property conservation consistent with the tenets of the Incident Command System (ICS) outlined by the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

**Scope**

ESF #4 manages and coordinates firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on all private and state lands, and provides resource support to rural and urban firefighting operations.

Coordination with, and support of, local fire suppression organizations is accomplished through the State Forester, VDOF and Executive Director of the VDFP, in cooperation with the VFCA, State Fire Marshall's Office (SFMO), and the VDEM.

**Policies**

- ESF-4 addresses three priorities: (1) life safety (for the public and response personnel); (2) incident stabilization; and

**Mission**

The mission of ESF #4 is to provide assistance in preventing and controlling large urban fires and wildfires, to coordinate mutual aid among fire/EMS departments as needed, and to assist with Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) operations as appropriate.

## Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan Emergency Support Function #4

### Organization

The VDFP is responsible for the Urban Fire Service. The VDOF is responsible for the Rural Fire Service as well as for wildfire prevention and suppression throughout the Commonwealth.

### Concept of Operations

- A. The Urban Fire Service will be responsible for all structural fires occurring in urban, suburban, and rural areas. In fulfilling this responsibility, it is assumed that situations will arise where some natural-cover fire fighting will be necessary to supplement the operation of the Rural Fire Service. The Urban Fire Service representative will support and coordinate resources from other localities or locations in controlling structural fires beyond the capabilities of any locality including implementation of existing neighbor-to-neighbor mutual agreements. (Note: VDFP does not have statutory authority to direct the resources of any locality or chartered fire department in the Commonwealth).
- B. The VDOF will be responsible for all natural cover fires occurring in forest and grasslands. In fulfilling this responsibility, it is assumed that some structural fire fighting resources will be necessary in rural areas as a supplement to the operations of the Rural Fire Service. The Rural Fire Service representative will direct activities in controlling natural-cover fires.
- C. Since it is inevitable that these services will overlap at the operational level in rural areas and in the Wildland/Urban Interface Zones in the Commonwealth, it is imperative that cooperation and understanding exist between all operational levels. As a minimum step

to accomplish this, the Urban and Rural Fire Service Chiefs in coordination with the VFCA shall maintain lists of key personnel, to include points of contact through local fire service organizations.

- D. At the regional and division level, the chief of each organization will name a liaison representative to the other organization and establish a positive working relationship between organizations.
- E. The Urban Fire Service will be coordinated at the state level by the Executive Director, VDFP who shall be designated as Chief, Urban Fire Service. The Rural Fire Service will be directed at the state level by the State Forester, VDOF who shall be designated as Chief, Rural Fire Service.

The Chiefs of the Urban and Rural Fire Services shall cooperate with and assist each other to effectively discharge their respective responsibilities. Disagreements which may arise between the two services will be referred to the State Coordinator of Emergency Management or designated representative to mediate an equitable resolution.

- F. The VDFP and the VDOF, based on their knowledge of local government and ongoing working relationships with local emergency services will jointly coordinate the acquisition of personnel and resources to supplement the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) as needed.
- G. The VDOF participates in the national wildland fire response system and uses national training and performance standards consistent with key management principles of NIMS for incident management.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #4**

- H. VDOF personnel will assist the VEOC Operations Section and Planning Section as needed. The VDOF will also provide Incident Management Teams, GIS specialists and FEMA FAST response team members as necessary.

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## **Section 1 -Urban Fire Response**

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### **Mission**

To assist local governments in preventing, controlling, and suppressing a major fire involving structures which has the potential to overwhelm locally-available firefighting resources.

### **Organization**

The VDFP, in coordination with the VFCA, is responsible for the Urban Fire Service, which consists of all political jurisdictions and their established fire departments. Seven regional response zones (Divisions) have been established to facilitate mutual aid, training, operational coordination, and program management support. Assistance is provided by the SFMO for fire prevention and fire protection systems code enforcement, and emergency resource support.

### **Assumptions**

- A. The chief fire officer or appointed Fire Official of each political jurisdiction should develop and maintain plans and procedures providing for:
  - 1. Staff notification and reporting.
  - 2. Communications.
  - 3. Inventories of facilities and equipment.
  - 4. Hazardous materials incident response.
  - 5. Active participation in the local EOP maintenance process.
  - 6. Lines of succession of key positions

- B. Appropriate agencies of political subdivisions such as the water department, building officials, fire official, planning department, and public schools should assist in developing and carrying out those portions of the local fire defense plan relative to emergency water supply, fire resistant construction, firebreaks between buildings, installation of automatic fire protective equipment, fire prevention, home fire protection, and education.

### **Concept of Operations**

- A. Local governments or fire departments chartered by the locality typically provide firefighting equipment, personnel, resources, and technical expertise to prevent, control, and suppress structure fires within their jurisdiction.
- B. Should outside assistance be required, it is normally obtained through the implementation of mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions. Should a fire situation exceed all locally-available capabilities, the affected local government(s) may request additional support through the VEOC. The VEOC will coordinate with the VDFP (in their ESF 4 role) to provide additional assistance as needed. The VDFP will coordinate with appropriate representatives of the VFCA to identify and request appropriate locally-based resources to support any request for additional assistance.
- C. The VDFP in cooperation with the VFCA shall maintain, for ready reference, an up-to-date statewide

## Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan

### Emergency Support Function #4

inventory of firefighting resources, most of which are owned and operated by local fire departments. Added expertise may also be needed to assist with the management of a large firefighting operation. The VDFP shall be prepared to provide such assistance, through the provision of ICS-trained firefighters, fire service technical specialists, and other tactical resources from in-state or with resources obtained from external sources.

- D. The Executive Director of the VDFP is the Chief of the Urban Fire Service. He will designate a Division Chief for each one of seven regional offices.
- E. For each of the seven Urban Fire Service divisions, The Division Chief shall also serve as the Regional Fire Service Disaster Coordinator and Division Mobile Incident Support Team Coordinator. A Disaster Response Plan will be developed and maintained to integrate regional/division operations within the state disaster response system. The Regional/Division Disaster Response Plan will usually incorporate statewide mutual aid. Each regional plan will:
  - 1. Identify the region's qualified (credentialed) personnel who may compose a Mobile Incident Support Team (MIST) and set forth procedures for its deployment.
  - 2. Provide for an on-going inventory of equipment, vehicles, and personnel maintained jointly by the VFCA and VDFP.
  - 3. Establish a regional (or statewide) communications network based on the principles of interoperability and integrated communications promulgated in the NIMS.

- F. Local firefighting capabilities should be maintained in accordance with established standards such as those enumerated in the NIMS.
- G. The Urban Fire Service has adopted NIMS, trains consistently using NIMS protocols, and utilizes NIMS ICS for a regional or statewide disaster response.
- H. Firefighting units operating in their normal territory will continue their normal internal command relationship. Command relationships and control in operations under mutual aid agreements are in accordance with the terms of such agreements and should reflect expectations delineated in the NIMS and the National Response Framework (NRF). Where there are no mutual aid agreements, all firefighting units and organizations responding from other jurisdictions to support tactical operations should report to the operational Incident Commander for assignment. During firefighting operations, the Incident Commander will regularly appraise the appropriate local officials, to include the local Coordinator of Emergency Management of all resources committed to operational assignments, including use of external and mutual aid resources.
- I. The VDFP will maintain and coordinate a cadre of personnel resources from across the Commonwealth, trained in advanced elements of the ICS. These personnel, subject to their individual availability during major emergencies or disasters, may be mobilized and deployed as a MIST or teams to provide immediate, short-term assistance upon request of local emergency response managers in localities that have suffered major disruptive effects of an event. This would include situations in which there is substantial interruption of public safety services and lack of trained and qualified personnel to ensure on-going

## Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan

### Emergency Support Function #4

public safety or emergency response management.

The MIST resources are intended to fill an immediate local need for presumably for 2-3 days. At that point the MIST resources could be released, remain in select positions or absorbed into a larger formally constituted IMT.

The MIST may be requested to provide personnel to staff or assist most or all of the local functional command and general staff assignments consistent with the ICS. The MIST would be deployed until local officials can assess damage, ascertain local personnel and resource status and determine incident management objectives and strategies, or until a larger contingent of response management resources (i.e.—an IMT from the VDOF or other resource) can be mobilized or deployed to the impacted area. The MIST may be deployed in conjunction with a tactical task force or separately as indicated by the affected locality. (The MIST is not intended or authorized to supplant or assume local command, but to provide resource support in the reconstitution of local command and management for the event.) VDFP, in conjunction with the VFCA, VDOF and other emergency management agencies, will develop and maintain SOPs relative to the organization, assignment, membership, and maintenance of MIST capabilities.

#### J. Lines of succession (subject to alteration by VDFP Senior Leadership)

1. Executive Director, VDFP
2. Branch Chief, Training & Technical Services, VDFP
3. Program Chief, Incident Management Programs, VDFP
4. Program Chiefs (Duty Rotation)

- a. Information Technology & Quality Assurance
- b. Virginia Fire Marshal Academy
- c. Technical Rescue
- d. Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting

#### 5. Branch Chief, Training & Operations

#### 6. Division Chiefs

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**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #4**

**REFERENCE**

Code of Virginia, Title 27-Chapter 1, Sections 27-1, 27-2, 27-2.1, 27-3, 27-4; Chapter 2, Sections 27-6.1, 27-8, 27-11, 27-13; 27-23.6, 27-23.9; Chapter 3, Sections 27-30, 27-34, 27-34.3, 27-37.1; Chapter 4, Section 27-42; Chapter 6, Section 27-61; Chapter 9, Section 27-98.

## **Section 2 – Rural Fire Response**

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### **Mission**

The VDOF is responsible for the suppression of forest fires in the Commonwealth. Through VDOF's ESF-4 role the agency will provide resources and cooperate with local governments in preventing, controlling, and suppressing a major wildland fire which primarily affects forests, brushlands, or grasslands and has the potential to overwhelm locally available firefighting resources.

### **Organization**

The VDOF is the agency primarily responsible for rural fire response and the State Forester is the Chief of the state's Rural Fire Service. The in-state federal resources of the U. S. Forest Service (USFS), the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service are included. Under the direction of the Department of Forestry, assistance is also provided by other state agencies and cooperating volunteer fire departments.

### **Concept of Operations**

A. Forest fires occur routinely and are handled by local emergency response of the VDOF, fire departments, and volunteers. The majority of the fires occur February 15 to April 30 and October 15 to December 1 each year. During periods of drought, forest fires can occur any time of year. The potential for forest fire emergencies is increased in areas with heavy woody debris from severe storms, ice damage, Gypsy Moth or other insect or disease problems. Additional problems for controlling forest fires are created in the urban interface where houses are intermingled in wooded areas.

B. This plan has been prepared by the VDOF according to authority of Title 10.1-1 105, of the Code of Virginia and is consistent with relevant plans and programs of the Federal and State governments. It is issued under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law.

C. This plan:

1. Defines the role of local, state, and federal governments prior to, during, and after a forest fire emergency striking the Commonwealth.
2. Provides guidance to agencies of state government and political subdivisions as to their responsibilities in coping with the effects of a forest fire emergency.
3. Provides for direction and control in the event of a forest fire emergency striking the Commonwealth.
4. Provides a basis for development of detailed emergency operating procedures, training, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to be used by agencies of state government and political subdivisions in the event of a forest fire emergency striking the Commonwealth.
5. Provides for the integration of the total resources of government and the private sector and assigns responsibilities to elements of



## Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan

### Emergency Support Function #4

- government, quasi-government, and private entities during a forest fire emergency.
6. Sets forth state concepts and procedures which local governments, organized for rural fire control, should use to develop local plans and SOPs for emergency operations to support this plan and to make the most effective use of resources under their control in dealing with the effects of a forest fire emergency.
- D. Pre-disaster warning time will vary; prolonged dry periods result in a predictable potential forest fire emergency. Sudden changes in weather such as dry cold fronts which bring low relative humidity and high gusty winds can result in forest fire emergencies with little warning.
- E. VDOF at the local, regional and state levels continually monitor the fire potential, on-going fire situation, and resources committed and available.
- F. State Level
1. The state government organizational staff for emergency operations consists of personnel from the agencies listed above. On behalf of the Governor, the State Forester, or designee, in coordination with the State Coordinator of Emergency Management, or designee, will coordinate operations at the state level.
    - a. The State Forester will initiate Memorandums of Understanding with other agencies named above. The MOUs will include the following:
      - 1) Provide resources to assist in immediate response to local emergencies.
      - 2) Develop specialized response resources and crews according to capabilities including: dozer crew, chain saw crew, fireline hand crew, equipment repair, other specialized equipment, transportation, etc.
      - 3) Provide training time for basic fire and specialized training as appropriate.
    - b. Short-term response for initial attack will be handled at the local level.
    - c. Ongoing local response will be approved by the unit administrator, i.e. Regional level.
    - d. Use of National Guard will require a state declaration of emergency.
    - e. Forest Fire Readiness levels will be used to indicate response time. Individual MOUs between agencies will define "on call" or standby at each level. Each agency will have a readiness plan consistent with their MOU.
  2. The Chief of the Rural Fire Service is the State Forester, who shall be responsible for the coordination and direction of the personnel and equipment assigned to the control of forest and natural cover fires. To fulfill these responsibilities, he/she will:
    - a. Establish procedures and develop plans for overall Rural Fire Service operation, using as a framework the existing

## Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan Emergency Support Function #4

organization of the VDOF, the Incident Command System and incorporating mutual aid agreements.

- b. Prepare a Memorandum of Understanding, as appropriate, with other state and federal agencies to provide mutual assistance.
- c. Prepare plans to assure close liaison and cooperation with the Chief Urban Fire Service.
- d. Designate a Chief at the regional level to carry out Rural Fire Service responsibilities.

### G. Regional Level

1. The Chief of the Rural Fire Service at the regional level will be the Regional Forester of the VDOF or his/her designated representative. The Regional Forester of each region will be responsible to fulfill these responsibilities in an effective manner.
2. The Rural Fire Service Regions shall correspond with the areas encompassed by the existing administrative regions of the State Department of Forestry. These three regions will operate during a large-scale emergency, using as a nucleus the same personnel and equipment as in normal or routine forest fire control operations.
3. VDOF personnel have extensive training and practical experience in the Incident Command System and are prepared to direct appropriate levels of resources for the given situation. The VDOF maintains regional teams of Type 3 qualified Command and General Staff personnel for localized all-risk

incident management needs as well as 1 nationally qualified Type 2 All-risk Incident Management Team for state or regional deployment.

4. The extent of the emergency will be assessed at the VDOF regional level based on the advice and recommendations of appropriate VDOF personnel. All available sources of information and assistance will be utilized in determining the scope of the problem and the forces needed to most effectively cope with the situation. Inventory of the remaining available personnel will be made through contact with local personnel, other state agencies, and the Division Chief of Urban Fire Service for the affected area. Based on the information assembled, plans will be made to deploy available resources to areas of the most crucial needs.

### H. Local Level

1. Local response capabilities can be quickly overwhelmed when large and/or multiple fires occur. Many volunteer firefighters are unavailable during the day and VDOF, state agency and local government resources are limited. Therefore, effective response to a forest fire emergency must rely on the development of plans, programs, and procedures which will permit:
2. Rapid mobilization and effective use of cooperative suppression resources which are available through the Virginia Interagency Coordination Center (VICC) working through the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) as well as through Forest Fire Suppression Assistance Compacts with other states.

## Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan

### Emergency Support Function #4

3. The VICC is collocated at the VDOF's main office and provides for the efficient mobilization of cooperating federal all-risk resources on an as needed basis at both the state and national level.
4. The operational control of fire suppression, coordination, damage control and related matters at the local or county level is supervised by the VDOF Regional Forester in his jurisdictional area. The Area Foresters and/or Forest Technicians will normally be assigned responsibility for the counties in which they are regularly employed. Their familiarity with county topography, and working relationship with government agencies should contribute to effective coordination at the level of action where it is most vital.
5. The local VDOF representative will utilize available personnel and equipment in addition to regular sources of forest fire control assistance. Priorities of life and property must be recognized, and coordination and compromise must be effected.

#### I. Resources

The Rural Fire Service of Virginia is organized from, but not limited to, the following cooperating sources and agencies:

1. Federal
    - a. United States Forest Service
    - b. National Park Service (NPS)
    - c. Department of Defense - Military Bases, Corps of Engineers
    - d. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
    - e. FEMA
- #### J. Lines of Succession
1. State Level
    - a. State Forester, VDOF
    - b. Assistant State Forester, VDOF
    - c. Director, Resource Protection, VDOF
    - d. Assistant Director, Resource Protection, VDOF
  2. Regional Level
  3. Regional Forester, VDOF
  4. Local Level
  5. Area Forester, Forest Technician, or other DOF designated person
- #### K. Control
1. Personnel at each operating level will advise supervisors of the situation. The supervisors then determine how to deploy available resources to the areas of most crucial need.
  2. Communications personnel for the Rural Fire Service will utilize STARS or the two-way radio network presently operated by the VDOF.
  3. The VDOF advises VDEM of the latest developments in the situation, including needs and planned actions.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #4**

**Figure 1 – Fire Readiness Level**

<b>FIRE READINESS LEVEL</b>	
<b>Level 1 LOW</b>	<p>Fires do not readily start. Fires that do start spread slowly with low resistance to control.</p> <p>Use local resources per cooperative agreement. When required resources exceed those available from local DOF, resources from cooperating agencies will be activated locally as needed.</p>
<b>Level 2 MODERATE</b>	<p>Fires can start from most accidental causes, but the number of starts is generally low. Fires burn at moderate intensities, heavy fuel concentrations will burn hot. Fires usually controlled in initial attack phase.</p> <p>Use local resources per cooperative agreement. When required resources exceed those available from local DOF, resources from cooperating agencies will be activated as needed.</p>
<b>Level 3 HIGH</b>	<p>Fires start easily from most causes. Control of fires can become difficult if initial attack not initiated promptly, especially in heavy fuels. Most fires controlled within first burning period.</p> <p>Use local resources per cooperative agreement. When required resources exceed those available from local DOF, resources from cooperating agencies will be activated as needed. Resources will be on standby in accordance with need and Agency MOU.</p>
<b>Level 4 VERY HIGH</b>	<p>Fires start readily and spread quickly. Resistance to control is high, as is the potential for large fires. Fire behavior is often erratic; "blow up" potential is high.</p> <p>When required resources exceed those available from local DOF, resources from cooperating agencies will be activated as needed and selected agency resources will be placed on standby in area.</p>
<b>Level 5 EXTREME</b>	<p>Severe fire conditions, potential for fire disaster is high. Direct attack of fires virtually impossible, fires often escape initial attack. Fire behavior is erratic, "blow ups" may be expected. Resistance to control is high, fires not usually controlled until burning conditions subside.</p> <p>Declared emergency - When required resources exceed those available from local DOF, resources from cooperating agencies will be activated as needed and selected agency resources will be placed on standby statewide.</p>

### Section 3 -Responsibilities for a Fire Emergency

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A. Federal

Federal responsibilities are outlined in MOUs with specific agencies including USFS, NPS, Department of Defense, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife.

B. Other states

Agreements are outlined in the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact and the Southeast Forest Fire Compact.

C. State

1. Common Responsibilities

All state agencies and local governments have common responsibilities, to include:

- a. If not assigned a specific task in this plan, state agencies will provide support within their respective capabilities for emergency operations.
- b. Annually provide VDOF with an inventory of specialized resources available by location as requested.

2. Specific Responsibilities that may be assigned to State Agencies (as ESFs) through the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) and VEOC

- a. Department of Aviation:  
Provide air transportation and support, fire detection, and reconnaissance operations when requested.
- b. Department of Corrections:

- 1) Provide personnel, to include inmates within security limitations for support of fire suppression operations.
- 2) Provide available transportation for fire personnel.
- 3) Assist in repair and maintenance of fire tools and equipment.

c. Colleges and Universities:

- 1) Provide personnel, to include trained fire crews at designated colleges and Universities. Develop fire fighting hand crews and crew leaders with training in basic fire control and safety.
- 2) Provide crew boss training for personnel who will supervise crews.

d. Virginia Department of Emergency Management:

- 1) Operate the VEOC.
- 2) Act as the liaison between the Department of Forestry and other state agencies.
- 3) Emergency communications.
- 4) Coordinate disaster response of non-governmental and voluntary organizations.
- 5) Process and transmit requests for federal disaster assistance.
- 6) Provide additional resources, as needed.
- 7) Provide HAZMAT support.

e. Department of Fire Programs:

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #4**

- 1) Provide liaison as needed with local fire service to protect structures.
  - 2) Provide overhead support of urban fire service resources in Wildland/Urban Interface fires.
- f. Department of Game and Inland Fisheries:
- 1) Provide personnel to support fire suppression activities to include law enforcement personnel for traffic control, security and fire investigation.
  - 2) Provide equipment for transportation of fire fighters (to include 4X4 vehicles, boats, etc.).
  - 3) Develop fire fighting hand crews or chain saw crews and crew leaders with training in basic fire control, chain saw use and safety.
  - 4) Provide crew boss training for personnel who will supervise crews.
- g. Virginia Information Technologies Agency:
- 1) Provide emergency communication equipment to support fire suppression operations.
- h. Marine Resources Commission:
- 1) Provide boats for transportation of fire fighters.
  - 2) Provide law enforcement personnel for traffic control, security and fire investigation.
- i. Department of Military Affairs:
- 1) Coordination of state military forces and resources employed in emergency fire suppression operations under direction of VDOF.
- 2) Provide military support of:
- Back-up Communications
  - Ground transportation
  - Emergency feeding support
  - Area security and traffic control
  - Heavy equipment, such as bulldozers and water supply
  - MEDEVAC, aerial reconnaissance, aerial cargo delivery, and water buckets
- 3) In selected Guard units, develop fire fighting hand crews, dozer crews or chain saw crews and crew leaders with training in basic fire control, chain saw use and safety.
- 4) Provide crew boss training for personnel who will supervise crews.
- j. Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy:
- 1) Provide personnel to support fire suppression operations.
  - 2) Provide transportation for personnel who will supervise crews.
  - 3) Provide maps showing locations of gas or oil wells, gathering pipelines and associated facilities.
- k. Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Parks:
- 1) Provide available personnel for fire suppression operations. Develop firefighting hand crews, dozer crews or chain saw crews and crew leaders with

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #4**

- training in basic fire control, chain saw use and safety.
  - 2) Provide crew boss training for personnel who will supervise crews.
  - 3) Provide law enforcement officers for traffic control and security measures.
  - 4) Provide available equipment to support suppression operations.
  - 5) Assist in repair and maintenance of fire tools and equipment.
- l. Virginia Department of Social Services:
- 1) Assist localities in provisions for evacuated civilians.
- m. Virginia State Police:
- 1) Evacuation in coordination with VDOF, local governing officials and law enforcement personnel.
  - 2) Provide back-up field communications and emergency radio repair.
  - 3) Provide command post support.
  - 4) Assist local law enforcement agencies in providing security, traffic control, and law enforcement at evacuation centers and fire areas.
  - 5) Provide rotor and fixed wing aircraft for fire suppression and reconnaissance operations and transportation of fire personnel.
  - 6) Assist in the investigation of fires.
- n. Virginia Department of Transportation:
- 1) Provide personnel to operate heavy equipment in

- fire suppression operations. Develop firefighting hand crews, dozer crews, and chain saw crews and crew leaders with training in basic fire control, chain saw use and safety.
- 2) Provide crew boss training for personnel who will supervise crews.
- 3) Provide equipment; such as chain saws, bulldozers and water tankers.
- 4) Provide ground transportation for fire personnel.
- 5) Provide back-up field communications.
- 6) Provide mechanics for repair and support of fire equipment.
- 7) Provide fuel to support fire operations.

**D. Local Government**

- 1. Local governments will carry out the provisions of this annex and prepare and maintain supporting plans and SOPs to support this annex.
- 2. Provide available equipment, dozers, water supply, etc. to support suppression operations.
- 3. Provide available personnel for fire suppression operations, to include enforcement officers for traffic control and security measures.
- 4. Provide buses for transporting fire crews.
- 5. Local Emergency Management Coordinator to assist with evacuation, food and lodging.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #4**

**E. Non-Government**

1. American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Fire Department Auxiliary, etc. Assist with sheltering and feeding of emergency personnel and evacuees.
2. Fire Departments:
  - a. Provide protection for structures threatened by forest fires.
  - b. Provide personnel and equipment for forest fire suppression operations.
  - c. Provide command personnel for unified command or liaison with VDOF.
3. Cooperating Industrial Crews and Private Contractors:
  - a. Provide personnel, crew leaders, and specialized equipment as available. Develop fire fighting hand crews, dozer crews, chain saw crews, and crew leaders with training in basic fire control, chain saw use, and safety.
  - b. Provide crew boss training for personnel who will supervise crews.

**F. Execution**

Support to the VDOF will be accomplished through established procedures when a forest fire emergency exists. It is executed when:

1. Local fire occurrence requires resources for suppression in excess of resources immediately available from VDOF.
2. A forest fire emergency strikes the Commonwealth or may imminently do so.
3. A notification is made by the State Forester.
4. A state of emergency is declared by the Governor.

- G. The VDOF Director, Resource Protection is responsible for maintaining and updating this plan as necessary to reflect the SOPs for ESF-4. The Emergency Management Coordinator of each supporting agency will familiarize themselves and their personnel with the VDOF plan and their agency SOPs for carrying out assigned tasks and functions.

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